

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Minutes
April 14, 2009
At Town Hall

Present: Greg Nelson, Patty Hobin

I. 2008 Financial Report

Motion to accept and place on file. Motion: Ham Ross; 2nd: Burke Henry.
Motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special Town Meeting on December 1, 2008. Motion: Keith Sowl; 2nd: Beth Fischlowitz.
Motion carried: all ayes except for one abstention.

B. Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on April 8, 2008. Motion carried: all ayes.

III. Topics from the People

A. Elouise Andreas requested that the Town post prominently (Town dock, Rec Center, parks) and enforce the dog leash law.

B. Alan Fischlowitz requested that the Town investigate the potential for use of municipal bonds. This could be an investment for the harbor expansion.

C. Warren Anderson quoted from a town Master Plan created in 1972.

D. Alan Fischlowitz pointed out that the Smart Growth plan replaces and supercedes the Master Plan.

E. Mike Starck pointed out that in the interest of transparency in government, the Town should continue its pursuit of nineteen sets of missing minutes from the years 2005 through March 2009.

F. Burke Henry supported this, saying that the Town is due an answer regarding these minutes.

G. Larry Whalen responded that due to many Board of Review meetings early in his term, he got behind.

H. Burke Henry suggested that this could be resolved by getting something down on paper.

I. Jim Patterson (spouse of a previous clerk) pointed out that there were not a lot of missing minutes when his wife left office.

J. Mike Allen asked if there were not also a lot of Town Plan Commission workshop minutes missing.

K. Greg Nelson responded that at one point there was some confusion over whether or not minutes were required at a workshop.

L. Jen Croonborg said that the Town Clerk has not received a raise since 2002. She moved that the Clerk receive a \$200 per month increase beginning with the 2011 term. Motion: Jen Croonborg; 2nd: Lawrence Whalen. Motion carried: 31 ayes; 2 no's; 1 abstention.

M. Keith Sowl thanked Mike Starck and Jim Patterson for their service on the Town Board. Burke Henry seconds.

N. Warren Anderson notes the passing of Dan Brummer, "a great, great neighbor."

O. Jen Croonborg points out that she also values the work of the Treasurer, and the Town may want to consider giving that position a raise as well.

P. Tom Nelson made known his displeasure over what he felt were missing documents and requested the following action items:

1. Tom Nelson would like the Town Plan Commission "before & after" drafts of changes that they are making so as to clearly show these changes. (Mike Starck responded that this had already been done.)

2. Tom Nelson made a motion to disband the Town Plan Commission and choose new members. **(Advisory motion only)** Motion: Tom Nelson; 2nd: Paul Brummer. Motion failed: 11 ayes, 12 no's, 9 abstentions.

3. Tom Nelson made a motion requesting the Town Board to consider reducing the Town Plan Commission to five members. **(Advisory motion only)**. Motion: Tom Nelson; 2nd: Paul Brummer. Motion carried: 22 ayes; 5 no's; 7 abstentions.

IV. Rice St. Extension

A. Keith Sowl brought this up because the DOT process includes an environmental review and the federal government wants input from the town.

B. Beth Fischlowitz pointed out that there may be "cultural sensitivities" regarding this project (i.e. St. Joseph's Catholic Church), but that the extension will open up town land that can be used for low-income housing.

C. Greg Nelson said that there are always strings attached to any federal funding and that the Town has been careful to include the tribe in decision making.

D. Paul Brummer made a motion to stop the project and use the money elsewhere. It was seconded by Tom Nelson.

E. Greg Nelson responded that if we do, the money that was earmarked for the project will have to be returned.

F. Mary Ross asked how much money this involves.

G. Keith Sowl said he thought it would be about fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars. (Of a total of \$445,000 granted for the extension)

H. Ham Ross asked if this is still a ten-year project.

I. Greg Nelson said that it is, but that the federal government would like to see it bid out by January, 2010.

J. Ken Peterson asked if the \$445,000 will cover the cost of the whole project.

K. Greg Nelson answered no, that there will have to be a sanitary sewer. He also pointed out that recent road vacations were predicated on the extension being built and that the Winter Transportation had been placed were it is based on an extension of Rice St.

L. Ken Peterson asked for a dollar amount on the costs above \$445,000.

M. Greg Nelson estimated \$160,000.

N. Paul Brummer states that he feels the project should never have gone this far.

O. Warren Anderson said that the Master Plan of 1972 called for another approach to Sunny Slope.

P. Beth Fischlowitz quoted a funding article she read recently, "People who abandon projects are frequently sorry that they did so."

Q. Greg Nelson reiterates that he is in favor of the project.

R. Ham Ross pointed out that in the past the Town has spent money on projects that it later abandoned.

S. Elouise Andreas asked if Rice St. is the only way to access the Town property.

T. Greg Nelson responded, "Not the Town property; it's land-locked."

U. Evan Erickson said that he favors the project only if it includes bike lanes, sidewalks, ditches, etc.

Motion on the floor:

Motion fails: 3 ayes; 17 no's; 10 abstentions.

Questions/Comments following the vote:

1. Ken Peterson asked how far from the ice road the extension comes out.

Answer: 100 ft.

2. Troy Nelson reiterated that the road should be built to proper standards.

3. Warren Anderson pointed out that housing is a necessity and the extension would open up the land available for housing.

4. Greg Nelson also stated that since some of the estimates were done when the price of gasoline was so high, some of the estimates may come down.

Motion to adjourn. Motion: Mike Starck; 2nd: Ham Ross. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:50.

Approved as submitted on April 13, 2010

Patty Hobin, Town Clerk